	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/736,355	DUTTA, RABINDRANATH
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alain L. Bashore	1762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to <u>9-5-06</u>.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-10,13-16 and 18-31</u>.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some*   c)☐ None   of the:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

ALAIN L. BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments, filed 9-5-06, with respect to rejection of record, have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of record has been withdrawn. The drawings filed 3-5-01 are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

2.   Claims 1-10, 13-16, 18-31 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention includes independent claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 20, 26, 30, and 31. Claims 1, 2, 4 recite a method of reserving a space from among a plurality of spaces at a location, claims 8 and 13 recite a space reservation computer system, claim 20 recites a computer program product, claims 26, 30 and 31 recite a method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces.

DeLorne et al is considered the closest prior art. DeLorme et al discloses a

reservation method including inputting a reservation request into a reservation system

(col 15, lines 14-55) from a location via a graphical user interface (col 25, lines 35-51).

Electronic payment for a selected reservation period is provided. A reservation coupon

is received which includes an identifying bar code to be read when the reservation

coupon travels thorough an entrance and exit of the location (col 8, lines 57-65). Bidding

is disclosed for the reservations (col 8, lines 51-52), and is an Internet connection.

DeLorne et al does not disclose the claimed combination including:

In claim1:

receiving a reservation request inputted into a graphical user interface of a

reservation system utilized to provide reservations for one of the plurality of spaces at

said location, said reservation request including date and time information for which said

reservation is made;

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued

reservation corresponding to said reservation request;

outputting, in response to the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which

includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code

reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the

plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation; and

updating a reservation period linked to the reservation coupon by an additional period on payment by the customer for the additional period, wherein the customer is able to extend a reservation after said reservation coupon has been printed when the reserved space had not been allocated to another customer.

In claim 2:

receiving a reservation request inputted to a graphical user interface of a reservation system utilized to provide reservations for one of the plurality of spaces at said location, said reservation request including date and time information for which said reservation is made;

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request;

outputting, in response to the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assured to the reservation;

instructing a recipient of the reservation coupon to visibly display said reservation coupon to allow said identifying bar code to be read when said reservation coupon is used while passing through an entrance and an exit of said location; and

tracking use of the space and remaining available spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

In claim 4:

receiving a reservation request inputted into a graphical user interface of a reservation system utilized to provide reservation for one of the plurality of spaces at said location, said reservation request including date and time information for which said reservation is made;

providing all electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request',

outputting, in response to the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation;

receiving a request to extend said reservation period from the recipient of the reservation coupon;

extending said reservation period when there space has not been previously issued to another recipient, wherein said extending occurs after said reservation coupon has been issued and said extending is updated within the reservation system to apply to the previously issued reservation coupon; and

requesting an electronic payment for an extension to a reservation acquired by

said extending step, wherein said electronic payment is received prior to said

reservation period being extended when there is no monitoring of the location to collect

payment for the additional reservation.

In claim 8:

a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces that may be

reserved;

a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for a space at one

of said locations;

an availability utility that determines whether said space is available;

electronic payment mechanism for receiving electronic payment to reserve the

space for the customer;

output means for, in response to said space being available, providing said

customer with a pintable reservation coupon containing information by which access to

said location is controlled, wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space

among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier

indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation; and

an extension utility that allows said customer to extend a reservation after said

reservation coupon has been printed when the reserved space had not been allocated

to another customer. wherein the extension utility updates the reservation period linked

to the coupon code by an additional period upon payment by the customer for the

additional period.

In claim 20:

a computer readable medium;

program instructions stored on said computer readable medium for:

managing a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces

that may be reserved;

providing a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for

a space at one of said locations and an availability utility that determines whether

said space is available';

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an

issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request

in response to said space being available and receipt of payment,

outputting to said customer a printable reservation coupon containing information

by which access to said one location is controlled, wherein when the reservation

assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon

also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assured to

the reservation;. And,

tracking use of the space and updating available remaining spaces within

the location by receiving data about which reservation coupons are presented at

the entrance and exit of the location.

In claim 26:

receiving, from one of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the pricing location during the specific duration of time;

receiving an electronic payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request;

sending, over the network to the client, a pintable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking request, wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces, the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation and

tracking use of the space and updating availability of remaining spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

In claim 30:

receiving, from one or more of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time; and,

initiating an auction for allocating a parking reservation for the parking location if the status of the parking location indicates a certain level of demand during the duration of time that is above a preset threshold level, wherein the parking request associated with the highest bidder is allocated the parking reservation and wherein, when the level of demand is not above the preset threshold level, the parking reservation is allocated without an auction

receiving an electronic payment from a winner of the auction for an issued reservation corresponding to said parking request

sending. over the network to the client. a printable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking request. wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces. the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation and

tracking use of the space and updating availability of remaining spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of-the location.

In claim 31:

receiving, from one of said clients, a pricing request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time; and

automatically notifying a valet service to pick up a car at a designated location and to park the car at the parking location if the status of the parking location indicates an availability of one of the separate parking spaces for the duration, wherein the valet service electronically receives a reservation ticket for the parking location generated by the parking request and returns the car to the desired location for pick up by the customer who dropped off the car.

sending, over the network to the client. a printable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking requests wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces. the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation; and

tracking use of the space and updating availability of remaining spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location by the valet.

For these reasons claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 20, 26, 30, and 31 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record, and claims 3, 5-7, 9-10, 14-16, 18-19, 21-25, 27-29 are allowable by dependency.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alain L. Bashore whose telephone number is 571-272-6739. The examiner can normally be reached on about 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (Mon. thru Thurs.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Regarding all Class 705 applications, the management contact regarding examination is: Vincent Millin (SPE, art unit 3624) at 571-272-6747.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alain L. Bashore
Primary Examiner
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